



# The City Chatter

## Newsletter for City of Warwick Employees



November 2004

Volume 12 Issue 9

### Annual Fire Safety Day A Tremendous Success

Mayor Scott Avedisian, Fire Chief Jack Chartier and the Warwick Fire Marshall's Office are expressing their thanks to all who made the department's annual fire safety day such a huge success. Approximately 1,800 and 2,000 people attended the October 16 event, which was held between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Apponaug Fire Station.



Warwick families and those from surrounding communities enjoyed a variety of events, including a Jaws of Life/Heavy Duty rescue demo, firefighters combat challenge, thermal imaging camera demo, fire and rescue trucks on display, a tour of the fire safety trailer and a chance to meet Sparky the Fire Dog, who made a special appearance from the Providence Fire Department.

Children also were eligible to enter a raffle for a chance to win a variety of prizes, including a stereo system, two bicycles with helmets and portable CD/AM/FM radios.

Free Halloween safety gifts were distributed, and soda and pizza – approximately 150 boxes' worth – were provided free of charge, courtesy of Papa Gino's Pizza. The Warwick Firefighter's Union (Local 2748), Toys R Us, Sam's Club, City Towing, Gannon Sign and United Divers also donated products or services for the day.



## ***December Birthdays***

### **Building Department**

Ann Marie Marchetti  
David Watson

### **City Clerk's Office**

Lynn D'Abrosca  
Miriam Garlick  
Judith Wild

### **Crossing Guards**

Geraldine Taglione  
Marilyn McMahon

### **Fire Department/Civilians**

Gail Razza  
Paul Roy

### **Fire Department/Uniform**

Daniel DeRobbio  
Peter Ginaitt  
James Jordan  
Steven St. Pierre  
John Williams

### **Human Services**

Linda Knutton

### **Library**

Carol Areson  
Carol Drought  
Irene Ovalles

### **Mayor's Office**

Melissa Coutcher

### **McDermott Pool**

William Coyne

### **MIS Department**

Dean Kosaka

### **Parks & Recreation**

Susan Aldrich

### **Personnel**

Jane Jordan

### **Police Dept / Civilians**

Kelly Trammell  
Susan Washburn

### **Police Department/Uniform**

Robert Bessell  
Charles Boisseau  
Eric Falcofsky  
Michael Martin  
Robert Nelson

### **Public Works/Highway**

Andrew Gasrow  
Jay Marchant  
Kenneth Naylor  
Margaret Ryan-Newman

### **Public Works/Maintenance**

Edmond Allard

### **Public Works/Sanitation**

John Brosco  
Kenneth Fritsche, Jr.  
Richard Oakes

### **Tax Assessor's Office**

Penny Robertson  
Carol Surprenant  
Earlene Wyrostek

### **Treasurer's Office**

Judith Santilli

### **Water Department**

Terry DiPetrillo  
David Mastrobuono

## ***Years of Service***

November 2004

### **20 Years**

**August R. Cote, Jr.**  
DPW/Automotive

**Christopher E. Giblin**  
Maintenance

**Joan L. Johnson**  
Library

**Richard E. Silvia**  
Water Department

**Edward R. Stracaluzi**  
DPW/Highway

### **15 Years**

**Patricia L. Dalesandro**  
Tax Assessors

**William Tyler**  
Fire/Uniform

### **10 Years**

**Norman A. Noble**  
Parks & Recreation

# ***Attention Municipal Employees***

## **Mayor, VolunTeen program seeking nominations to recognize outstanding high school students**



WARWICK – Mayor Scott Avedisian and the newly-established Volunteens program are seeking nominations to recognize outstanding efforts of Warwick high school students. Each month, one student will receive the Mayor's Student Service Citation for an outstanding accomplishment in service to the community. Nominations may be made by anyone in the community. The Mayor's Office and the Volunteens Youth Governing Council will select one student per month to receive this award.

Honorees will receive a citation, personally delivered to them in their classrooms by Mayor Avedisian. They will also be featured in the *Warwick Beacon* and on the city's website.

Requirements are as follows:

- Any member of the community may nominate a Warwick high school student for this award by filling out the nomination form and sending it to the Volunteens office.
- The award will recognize an outstanding achievement of the particular student, related to service to the community or volunteer effort.
- All nominations will be considered by the Volunteens Youth Governing Council. One nominee per month will be chosen to receive the award.

Volunteens is a non-profit program working in partnership with the City of Warwick and the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island to engage all Warwick teens in civic participation, community involvement and volunteer service. Any Warwick high school student may join Volunteens. For more information or to get involved please contact us at the information below.

Nomination Forms are available at [www.warwickri.gov](http://www.warwickri.gov) or by contacting the Volunteens office at: Volunteens Program, Office of Youth Services, 3275 Post Road Warwick, RI 02886, by phone at 463-3911, or by email at [Volunteer@warwickri.com](mailto:Volunteer@warwickri.com).

## Problems with Portion Size

Over the past 20 years, portion sizes have become super-sized. And we're not just talking fast food – portion sizes have also increased at our own dinner tables. In fact, Americans are now consuming almost 100 more calories in salty snacks like chips or popcorn, 49 more calories in soft drinks, and 68 more calories in French fries – per serving! And while that may not seem like a lot, the 148 calories Americans have added to their daily diet works out to an additional 15 pounds of weight gained every year!

### Super-Sized Waist Lines

At the same time that portion sizes have super-sized, so have Americans' waistlines. According to the National Institutes of Health, for the first time in history, the majority of Americans are overweight, and one in four is obese (severely overweight). This means that Americans are not only bigger than they have ever been, but they're also a lot less healthy than ever before.

### Super-Sized Health Problems

Unfortunately, many people don't realize just how serious America's super-sized waistlines really are. The fact that more than half of America is overweight means more than half of all Americans are at risk for obesity-related diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, cancer and arthritis. Increased portion size is contributing to our declining health status. In addition to getting plenty of physical activity, controlling the portion sizes of the food you eat can go a long way in helping you take control of your waistline and improving your health.

### How Much Is That?

The following comparisons will help you estimate the right amount of food to eat in one sitting:

- Three ounces of meat is about the size of a single deck of cards
- One serving of meat, fish or poultry is about the size of a computer mouse
- One-half cup of cut fruit or vegetables, pasta or rice is about the size of a small fist
- One cup of milk, yogurt or chopped fresh greens is about the size of a tennis ball
- One ounce of snack food (e.g., pretzels, chips) is about one large handful
- Three ounces of grilled fish is about the size of your checkbook
- One ounce of cheese is about the size of four dice
- Two tablespoons of peanut butter is about the size of a ping pong ball
- An average-sized bagel is about the size of a hockey puck (about half the size of the gigantic bagels we're used to!)

*This feature was provided by the Wellness Councils of America and its affiliates*

## ***Employee Milestones***



Best wishes to Chuck Sapcoe of the Department of Public Works' Engineering Division, who recently celebrated his 15-year anniversary with the city. Chuck received a Warwick mug as a token of thanks for all of his hard work, along with the congratulations of Mayor Avedisian and Public Works Director David Picozzi.



Congratulations to Manuel "Mike" Fox of the Department of Public Works, who has spent the past 30 years working for the city. Mayor Avedisian presented Mike with a City of Warwick pen and thanked him for his efforts on behalf of Warwick residents for the past three decades. Mike was also congratulated by DPW Director David Picozzi and a number of his colleagues as he celebrated this special milestone. Best wishes, Mike!



Warm wishes to the Department of Public Works' Tim Burdick, who recently marked 15 years as a City of Warwick employee. Mayor Avedisian presented Tim with a Warwick mug to commemorate this milestone. Don Levigne was among Tim's many co-workers who offered him their congratulations and thanks for his hard work.





The folks at the Tax Collector's Office sent co-worker Gail Cook into retirement in style! In addition to a surprise party on October 15 at the Fireman's Hall on Warwick Avenue, Gail was also honored during a luncheon reception in the Collector's Office. Mayor Avedisian presented Gail with a proclamation to recognize her 27 years of service to the residents of Warwick. Joining the Mayor and Gail for a photo outside the Annex was Tax Collector Ken Mallette.

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## ***The Mayor's Mailbox***

Dear Mayor:

My home is on property that abuts the Historical Cemetery on Houston Drive. The cemetery is a city treasure dating back to 1756. Over the past 42 years, I have done basic maintenance in the cemetery. In recent years, the Public Works Department has come to my aid, helping me to clean and maintain this treasure.

Recently, the Public Works Department came in and did a remarkable job – turning the overgrown weed- and brush-covered lot into the best condition ever.

Please convey my thanks to the hardworking men of the Public Works Department. Warwick is lucky to have them.

Sincerely,  
John Risico

*NOTE: The workers who did the job were Billy Lawrence, John Castaldi and Brian Rigney*

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Dear Mayor:

Please allow me to compliment all of the services provided by the City of Warwick. I was particularly impressed during my recent attempt to apply for a building permit. On November 4, I applied for a building permit in order to construct a storage shed in my backyard. I was unfamiliar with the process since it was my first experience with building permits. I knew that I needed to submit a site plan with the application, but was unaware that it needed to be drawn to scale and encompass the entire plat and lot in which my house is located.

I am writing today to commend one of your employees, Mr. Les Rolston. Mr. Rolston was extremely patient and took great pains to assist me in preparing the proper documentation necessary to apply for my building permit. He went so far as to draw the site plan himself as he referred to the map of my plat and lot number. This task would have taken me some time, since my skills as a draftsman are severely lacking. I thought Mr. Rolston went way beyond the call of duty, so to speak, and I appreciated his efforts. I am a retired member of the Cranston Police Department, and served in the Internal Affairs Division for the last two years of my career. I believed in what I did because I always placed a high value on providing the best service possible to the public. On November 4, Mr. Rolston demonstrated the kind of service that creates a positive image of the administration for which he works, while satisfying those who seek his assistance.

Please acknowledge Mr. Rolston for the exemplary manner in which he performed his duties.

Sincerely,  
William M. Kirejczyk

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Dear Mayor Avedisian:

I am sure you know my company performs engineering, construction and property management in support of our real estate development activities. My company operates the largest concentration of Class "A" office buildings in the City of Warwick. We have come to know John Pagliaro very well.

One of my senior staff members, Joseph Tassone, director of construction operations, and I have had a great deal of experience with John Pagliaro in the City of Warwick and in his former position in the City of Providence. Our working relationship could date almost 20 years.

We were quite pleased to know that John Pagliaro was named the head of your Building Inspection Department in Warwick. John possesses exceptional knowledge of the building code, has always been professional and has been readily accessible to our architects, engineers and our construction department. He is always eager to assist in a building code question or to provide research, and has been responsive to our numerous telephone calls with any building code or construction question we may have had. During these times, when the state has adopted a new building code and fire code, John has been extraordinarily knowledgeable and is the "go to guy."

I am writing to you to express our great satisfaction and support of John Pagliaro as Building Inspector in the City of Warwick. We hope that you continue to expand your professional staff with similar dedicated professionals eager to serve the public and provide first-rate customer service.

Very truly yours,

Michael Integlia and Company

<i>Note: Letters may be edited for clarity due to space constraints.</i>
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## ***Retirees' Corner***

The Christmas Party will be held on December 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Pilgrim Senior Center, 27 Pilgrim Parkway. Remember, we all bring a dish and have a great time! Please call Ann Gallogly at 739-9183 to let her know what you intend to bring and whether or not you will be bringing a guest.

Retirees are welcome at no charge. Tickets for guests are \$5 each.

Hope to see you there!

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***Congratulations to Gail Cook, Nancy Corcoran, Hector Ortiz and Craig Onorato, who have joined the ranks of Warwick municipal retirees.***

**Gail** began her career with the city in January 1977, serving as secretary to Mayor Joe Walsh. In February 1983, she transferred to the Finance Department as a word processing operator, and, in 1991, brought her skills and talents to the Tax Collector's Office, where she served as a word processing specialist until her retirement.

**Nancy** joined the City of Warwick in July 1984 as an accounting clerk in the Department of Public Works Administrative Division, and served in this capacity until 1986, when she became a procurement specialist for the department. In 1991, she was named business supervisor of DPW, and in 1995, she transferred to the Water Division, where she served as the water projects coordinator until her retirement.

**Hector** has been with the City of Warwick since 1985, when he was hired as a maintenance supervisor with the Sewer Authority. In 1994, he transferred to the Department of Public Works' Water Division, where he served as a water maintenance supervisor. In 1995, he became the liaison for the Engineering Division, and in 1996 was named a field administrator for the Department of Public Works' Administrative Division. Since 2003, he has served as the sealer of weights and measures for the Engineering Division.

**Craig** has served Warwick residents in a number of capacities since he was hired as a senior laborer for the Sanitation Division in 1971. In 1980, he became a light equipment operator for the Sanitation Division, and in 1985 was named a financial analyst for the Finance Department. In 1987, he was named deputy director of Economic Development, and in 1991 became the deputy director of public relations. After a brief time out of city government, he was re-hired by former Mayor Chafee as the business manager of the Sewer Authority and has served in this capacity for the past 11 years.

Congratulations, Gail, Nancy, Hector and Craig! Our warmest wishes for a restful and happy retirement.

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Attention retirees: Any changes in your address or other information should be sent to Jane Jordan in the Personnel Department. You may write to her at: 3275 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886 or call (401) 738-2000, ext. 6250.



# **General Announcements**

## **Welcome Aboard!**

The Tax Assessor's Office staff wishes to extend a warm welcome to their newest employee, Melissa Foley. Welcome!

## **Safety Jackpot Winners**

Congratulations to the October 2004 winner of the Safety Jackpot Lottery.  
**Linda Kanarian from the Parks and Recreation Department/Thayer Arena.**

All municipal hourly employees, who complete a calendar month without a lost-time injury, are eligible for the monthly Safety Jackpot Drawing of \$150.

Don't forget to forward your monthly lottery slips to the Personnel Department so you get a chance at winning!

*Remember to promote and maintain a safe and healthy work environment.*

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## **Classifieds**

### **FOR SALE:**

Topp's Baseball Cards -1987 Set (792 cards) with Barry Bonds Rookie card \$15

Joanne @ 737-0206

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